

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----101267 291720Z /41

P 291554Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8808  
INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 CAIRO 14320

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS  
TAGS: EG, LY  
SUBJ: GAMASY ON EGYPTIAN/LIBYAN RELATIONS

REF CAIRO 13861,

SUMMARY: GAMASY INFORMS THAT EGYPTIAN/LIBYAN DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT MOOTED EARLIER BY PRES SADAT HAS NOT YET MATERIALIZED. IN REPLY EARLIER LIBYAN QUERY, EGYPTIANS HAD AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT. HOWEVER, DURING RECENT PRISONER EXCHANGE, LIBYANS HAD HLD BACK SOME EGYPTIANS KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN CAPTURED. IN RETALIATION, EGYPTIANS HAD SONE THE SAME AND HAD ALSO RETAINED BODIES OF SOME LIBYANS KILLED IN FIGHTING. AT YESTERDAY'S HIGH-LEVEL EGYPTIAN/LIBYAN MEETING, EGYPTIAN DEL HAD REFUSED TO DISCUSS OVER-ALL DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT UNTIL ALL EGYPTIAN PRISONERS RETURNED. LIBYAL DEL DISCLAIMED KNOWLEDGE, BUT TOOK EGYPTIAN LIST BACK WITH THEM TO LOOK INTO MATTER. IF LIBYA PRODUCES MISSING PRISONERS, BROADER DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT ALONG LINES INITIALLY DISCUSSED IS POSSIBLE. IF NOT, THERE WILL BE NO DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT. GAMASY BELIEVES TENSIONS WITH LIBYA SHOULD BE KEPT HIGH, SINCE QADHAFI REMAINS A THREAT TO EGYPTIAN STABILITY AND TO ME PEACE. ENDSUMMARY.

1. AT MEETING WITH MINWAR GEN GAMASY TODAY, I TOLD HIM OF  
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PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS TO ME ABOUT A POSSIBLE EGYPTIAN/LIBYAN DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT AND ASKED ABOUT THE STATUS OF THE MATTER (REFTEL).

2. GAMASY SAID NO SUCH DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT HAS YET BEEN REACHED. HE THEN GAVE FOLLOWING BACKGROUND: SOME THREE WEEKS AGO, SHORTLY AFTER EGYPTIAN MILITARY HAD INFLICTED HEAVY LOSSES

ON LIBYAN FORCES, LIBYANS HAD SENT PROMINENT RCC "JAOR"  
TO TRY TO WORK OUT AN EASING OF THE TENSIONS. (LIKE EVERY-  
ONE ELSE, GAMASY CLEARLY DID NOT WITH TO IDENTIFY THE LIBYAN  
OFFICER.) LIBYAN OFFICER HAD BROACHED POSSIBILITY OF A  
DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT AND A POLITICAL UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN  
THE TWO COUNTRIES. IN REPLY, GAMASY HAD INSTRUCTED THAT THE  
LIBYAN "MAJOR" BE INFORMED THAT IF THE LIBYANS WITHDRAW  
THEIR UNITS FROM BORDER AREAS TO TOBRUK AND THEREAFTER RETAIN  
THE SAME FORCES AND THE SAME LEVEL OF FORCES THAT THEY HAD IN  
THE AREA BEFORE THE RECENT HOSTILITIES, EGYPT WOULD ALSO BE  
PREPARED TO "THIN OUT" SOME OF ITS FRONTLINE FORCES AND MOVE  
THEM BACK TO SIDI BARRANI. LIBYA AND EGYPT MIGHT MAINTAIN  
SMALL GARRISONS AT BARDAI (NOT MUSAIID) AND SOLLUM, RESPECTIVELY.  
(GAMASY DID NOT SPECIFY SIZE, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE OTHER INFO  
THAT BATTALION SIZE UNITS WERE SUGGESTED FOR THESE GARRISONS.)  
EGYPTIANS HAD STRESSED THAT THEY HAD IDENTIFIED ALL THE  
LIBYAN UNITS IN THE AREA PRIOR TO THE RECENT HOSTILITIES,  
AS WELL AS THEIR LOCATIONS, AND WOULD EXPECT A STRICT RETURN  
TO THE PRE-HOSTILITIES CONFIGURATION. IF SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT  
ACCEPTABLE TO LIBYANS, EGYPT WAS IN PRINCIPLE ALSO AGREEABLE.  
IN MEANTIME, AS EVIDENCE OF GOOD WILL, EGYPT HAD AGREED  
TO THE RETURN OF THE CAPTURED PRISONERS ON A RECIPROCAL BASIS.  
GAMASY COMMENTED THAT THIS FORTHCOMING EGYPTIAN ATTITUDE HAD  
BEEN TAKEN IN PART AT LEAST TO STRENGTHEN THE HAND OF THE  
LIBYAN INTERMEDIARY.

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8809  
INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY

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EXDIS

3. FOLLOWING THE LIBYAN "MAJOR'S" RETURN TO TRIPOLI, ARR-  
ANGEMENTS HAD BEEN MADE FOR THE PRISONER EXCHANGE. THIS TOOK  
PLACE LAST WEEK. THE LIBYANS, HOWEVER, HAD NOT RETURNED SOME  
EGYPTIANS WHO GOE KNOWS WERE CAPTURED. THESE EGYPTIANS,  
GAMASY VOLUNTEERED, HAD BEEN BEHIND THE LIBYANS LINES WHEN

IN THE FIGHTING, SOME HAD BEEN CAPTURED AND OTHERS WOUNDED WHILE BEING CAPTURED. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT MOST OF THEM HAD BEEN IN CIVILIAN GARB, I.E., SPIES AND AGENTS. IN EXPECTATION OF SUCH A LIBYAN MOVE, GAMASY SAID HE HAD ALSO RETAINED SOME OF THE LIBYAN PRISONERS AS WELL AS SOME BODIES OF LIBYANS KILLED IN THE FIGHTING.

4. YESTERDAY ANOTHER HIGH-LEVEL EGYPTIAN/LIBYAN MEETING HAD TAKEN PLACE. THE PRINCIPAL LIBYAN DELEGATE HAD BEEN THE RCC "MAJOR" AND A SENIOR LIBYAN POLICY OFFICIAL (TAHA SHARIF) HAD ALSO PARTICIPATED. ON THE EGYPTIAN SIDE, MINSTATE MOHAMED RIAD. THE "DISTRICT COMMANDER" OF THE SOLLUM AREA (MG HASSAN ABU SEIDEH) AND AN OFFICER FROM GHQ HAD BEEN SENT. RATHER THAN TALK ABOUT AN OVER-ALL DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT, THE EGYPTIAN DEL HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO INSIST ON THE RETURN OF THE MISSING EGYPTIAN PRISONERS AS A CONDITION FOR FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS. THE LIBYAN DEL HAD BEEN GIVEN A COMPLETE LIST OF THOSE EGYPTIAN PRISONERS STILL KNOWN TO BE IN LIBYAN HANDS, INCLUDING IN SOME INSTANCES WHERE THEY ARE BEING

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HELD AND/OR HOSPITALIZED. THE LIBYANS HAD ALSO BEEN TOLD THAT THE REMAINING LIBYAN PRISONERS, ALONG WITH THE LIBYAN BODIES, WILL NOT BE RETURNED UNTIL THERE IS AGREEMENT TO RELEASE THE EGYPTIAN PRISONERS. THE LIBYAN DEL, ACCORDING TO GAMASY, HAD BEEN TAKEN ABACK BY THE EGYPTIAN UNWILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS A BROAD DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT UNTIL THE PRISONER OF WAR ISSUE IS RESOLVED. THEY HAD DISCLAIMED ANY KNOWLEDGE THAT SOME ADDITIONAL EGYPTIAN PRISONERS MIGHT STILL BE HELD IN LIBYA, BUT HAD AGREED TO RETURN TO TRIPOLI TO LOOK INTO THE MATTER.

5. GAMASY SAID NEXT STP IS UP TO LIBYANS. IF THEY PRODUCE THE MISSING PRISONERS, EGYPT WILL BE WILLING DISCUSS BROADER DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT ALONG THE LINES INITIALLY PROPOSED. IF NOT, THERE WILL BE NO DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT. ASKED IF HE THOUGHT AS EASING OF EGYPTIAN/LIBYAN TENSIONS MIGHT NOW GRADUALLY DEVELOP BECAUSE OF THE DIALOGUE, GAMASY EXPRESSED THE PERSONAL VIEW THAT TENSIONS WITH LIBYA SHOULD BE KEPT HIGH. QADHAFI, HE INSISTED, REMAINS A THREAT TO EGYPTIAN STABILITY AND TO ME PEACE. HE MUST BE GOTTEN RID OF IN SOME WAY OR ANOTHER. IF, HOWEVER, LIBYAN RESPONSE IS POSITIVE, THEN A GRADUAL EASING OF TENSIONS MIGHT BE POSSIBLE.

6. COMMENT: APART FROM INDICATING HIS BELIEF THAT TENSIONS WITH LIBYA SHOULD BE KEPT HIGH, GAMASY GAVE NO INDICATION THAN ANY FURTHER EGYPTIAN MILITARY ACTION AGAINST LIBYA IS CONTEMPLATED IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE. THIS DOES NOT, OF COURSE, EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY OF A RESUMEDROUND OF FIGHTING IF CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS PROVE UNSUCCESSFUL. HE ALSO MADE NO MEN-

TION OF THE FACT THAT ARAFAT HAD BEEN PRESENT AT YESTERDAY'S  
MEETING.  
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## Message Attributes

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